Executive Summary

This Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) has been prepared by CH2M HILL for the U.S. Army under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District, Contract No. DACW05-99-D-0021-008, Delivery Order 0008. This FFS was prepared for sites identified within the Hamilton Army Airfield (HAAF) Coastal Salt Marsh (CSM).

HAAF is a former military installation located on a diked and subsided bayfront parcel in the City of Novato, California. The Main Airfield Parcel and other portions of HAAF were identified for operational closure under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1988 (BRAC). For the purpose of environmental closure under the Comprehensive Environmental Resource Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Main Airfield Parcel was divided into two areas, the Inboard Area and the Coastal Salt Marsh Area. The Inboard Area of the former installation is protected by a perimeter levee. The Coastal Salt Marsh Area lies outboard of the perimeter levee and encompasses a marshy area that lies between the perimeter levee and the eastern boundary of the Main Airfield Parcel. The coastal salt marsh habitat continues beyond the Main Airfield Parcel boundary out to San Pablo Bay. This portion of the CSM is located on property owned by the State Lands Commission (SLC) (see Section 1).

This FFS addresses contamination in the entire CSM from the levee out to San Pablo Bay that originated from Department of Defense (DoD) activities at HAAF. The Army prepared a separate FFS for the Inboard Area sites. A majority of the Main Airfield Parcel will be transferred to the State of California Coastal Conservancy (SCC) through the BRAC process and will become part of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (HWRP).

The purpose of the FFS is to identify sites within the CSM that require further action and to develop, evaluate, and recommend an alternative for each CSM site that would protect human health and the environment. To determine which CSM sites require further action, the FFS combines historical and recently collected data on the CSM sites, establishes chemicals of potential concern, develops action goals, and compares concentrations of chemicals of potential concern to action goals. If concentrations or chemicals of potential concern exceed action goals, then further evaluation of the site is necessary. To develop and evaluate recommended alternatives, the FFS establishes remedial action objectives and screens technologies that will protect human health and the environment and be consistent with continued use of the area as a coastal salt marsh/wetland environment. The FFS then evaluates each alternative developed based on the nine criteria specified in the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The NCP sets forth the evaluation criteria to address the statutory requirements and the additional technical and policy considerations proven to be important for selection of remedial alternatives.

The FFS evaluates eight CSM sites. Based on the evaluation presented in the FFS, site-specific conditions, limited access, and other site constraints, the FFS recommends preferred remedial alternatives for each site, as shown in Table ES-1.

TABLE ES-1
Preferred Remedial Alternative Summary
Focused Feasibility Study – CSM

Site	Alternative 1— No Further Action	Alternative 2— Excavation and Offsite Disposal
Antenna Debris Disposal Area		X
East Levee Construction Debris Disposal Area		X
High Marsh Area		
Proposed HWRP Channel Cut		X
Nonchannel Cut		X
Historic Outfall Drainage Ditch		X
Outfall Drainage Ditch		X
Boat Dock		
Nonchannel Area		X
Channel Area		X
Area 14		X
Former Sewage Treatment Plant Outfall		X